

# The Young Worker

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# THE YOUNG WORKER

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## On The Right Track

IT is no good policy for an organization such as ours to pat itself on the back on every conceivable occasion. Rather, it is our duty to be the most severe critics of our own movement. We cannot at any time feel that "all is well" and that further improvements are impossible. A working class movement is never perfect—and our young organization is very far from having attained perfection. We are small. We are young. We have as yet no influence or standing in the labor movement. But we are getting there. We are growing. Our membership is active, and above all we have started our work from correct premise.

In regard to our last statement we wish to quote from a letter received by our N. E. C. from the Y. C. I. in which they say:

"As you know, we give your congress the greatest possible attention, and regard it as a definite advance towards winning the masses of the working and peasant youth of America for the proletarian revolution. In your pamphlet (*Manifesto and Program of the Y. W. L. of A.*) we feel that revolutionary spirit which we already know from you.

"We share your satisfaction in the growth and increase in activity in the branches and the movement as a whole, and especially that you are beginning to attract the Anglo-American elements among the working class into your ranks. This proves that you are pursuing the correct policy for the winning over of the masses, which must today be our policy. It is completely correct, and is infinitely strengthened by the economic and social struggle between the working class and capital which is at present raging all over America."

Those who are leading the Young Communist International have had actual experience in building up mass movements of the young, and when they credit us with starting from a proper premise and in pursuing a correct policy we have much to feel proud of.

A lengthy and very favorable review of our *Manifesto and Program* appears in the August issue of the "Correspondence of the Young International."

If we have begun right, let us now work harder than ever before to bring into action these tactics of the revolutionary struggle. There are many pit-falls ahead, and the road of reality is anything but smooth. To the task, comrades. We cannot rest on our laurels till victory is won.

## Back to the Poison Factories

VACATION is over. Those children of the workers who are not of age to obtain working permits, or whose parents have not yet reached the inevitable stage where their children are forced to work, must return to the poison factories of the capitalist class—the schools.

In the program of the Y. W. L. the function of the schools in

our present system of society is clearly pointed out. At the same time, the Young Workers League strives to keep the children of the workers out of the factories and to force the capitalists to admit them to the schools, thus accepting the lesser of two evils. But it must be emphasized that the purpose of the schools is not to educate, but to propagate the theories and ideas of capitalism.

Wherever they can, the children within the schools, who have gotten some enlightenment on the class nature of our so-called public schools, and who, either in our organization or elsewhere, have learned something of the struggle that daily goes on between the working class and the owning class, should at every opportunity point out the truth to their fellow pupils.

The little children are the biggest dupes of our modern system. Each day is pounded into their heads the lies of the masters. Each day they are taught to despise their own class and to detest constructive action on its behalf. Each day the working class parents tolerate the poison pumped into the minds of their children, which ultimately works against them as workers.

To show up the class nature of the schools to the children within them is the duty of every intelligent worker and young worker.

## Injunction and Young Scabs

THE Daugherty injunction,—in reality the injunction of the railroad-owners—in addition to being a slap in the face to the rail strikers, is an invitation to the young to scab. That they already scab a-plenty on the older workers is plain to every one. But taught as they are, that what the government and its ministers do must be right, an impetus is given the high school boys, unemployed young workers, and college students to scab against the rail strikers under the pretext that they are aiding the government. Daugherty is against the union shop. Daugherty, likewise, is lawyer-in-chief of the government. When Daugherty invites you to scab the cloak of respectability and patriotism is thrown about you. The government of the United States can commit no evil act, is the essence of the teachings concerning the capitalist owned state diffused in the present-day schools. Daugherty speaks for the government, they say. Hence the government says it is patriotic to scab. The worker's children are taught that the government is infallible. Now, why shouldn't they be patriotic and scab?

## Third Congress of the Y. C. I.

ALREADY, from many parts of the world, delegates of the various Young Communist Leagues are on their way to Moscow to attend the Third Congress of the Y. C. I. The Young Workers League expects to have an observer present at this gathering. The Congress will take place sometime in November. Preceding the gathering of the Y. C. I. representatives at Moscow, it is expected that a World Congress of Working Class Youth will be held to devise ways and means of uniting the working youth.

The eyes of the organized revolutionary youth will be directed to the Third Congress of the Y. C. I., for there will be mapped out a plan of action for the coming year to be followed by the affiliated sections of the Young Communist International. We can learn much from this historical gathering. The experiences of the Young Communist Leagues of different countries will afford us many lessons which, if we are to achieve our end, we cannot overlook.

An agenda for the Third Congress has been issued by the Y. C. I. This is being published in a number of Workers Party papers. We await with extreme interest the decisions of the Third Congress of the Y. C. I.



# The Future Is With the Young

By JACK CARNEY

THE Young Workers League, though a new organization, has definitely established itself as an organization that is conscious of its task and is equipped with the necessary understanding as to how that task will be achieved. Those who were privileged to address meetings of the railroad strikers had the pleasure of witnessing members of the Young Workers League playing their part in a manner that adult members of the movement might copy to advantage. Wherever strikers were gathered there you would find the young workers busy distributing literature, pamphlets, etc., so that every striker received something to occupy his attention and to enable him to gain a fundamental understanding of the nature of the struggle he was engaged in. This is essential work and work that carries with it no applause or limelight, hence few have cared to engage in it. It is therefore to the lasting credit of the Young Workers League that they readily understood the purpose of their organization and its relation to the everyday struggle of the working class.

The Young Workers League might increase its usefulness by a close study of the Young Communist League of Soviet Russia. This league is not organized solely on branch lines. No member of the league feels that his duties are finished when he has attended a branch meeting. He considers the branch meeting of minor importance in comparison to other duties. He is compelled to go into the shop, where the actual struggle of the working class is fought, and there he spreads the propaganda of the organization. He is found in his union engaged in the same mission and wherever young people congregate, whether for sports or educational work, the Russian Y. C. L. member is found. As Trotsky pointed out at the Second Congress of the Y. C. L. International it is not so much the structure of the organization that the young workers must be concerned with as with gaining the support of the broad masses. In other words a dozen young workers out in the shops, etc., working amongst the masses are worth more to the Young Workers League than two or three hundred who remain in the branch room "drawing up plans for the revolution."

We stated that the workshop is where the struggle is being fought out. The instrument with which the workingclass conduct that struggle is the trade union. It is therefore the bounden duty of every Young Worker to be a member of a union. It is true that strong and justifiable criticism of the unions can be made, but they do not serve as an excuse for not joining them. If you were a pioneer out West and it was your task to cut your way through the forests it would not have served you in good stead to have complained that your axe was blunt. You would have had to sharpen the axe or the forest would never have been penetrated. The unions are not organized in accordance with the requirements of the times. They will remain as they are so long as those people remain in control of them who think that the unions are all right. The unions must be so organized as to serve as efficient instruments in the struggle. Every young worker, after joining his union, will enlist in the task of reorganizing the labor movement. The organization that

will assist him in this direction will be the Trade Union Educational League. We need hardly dwell on the work of the Trade Union Educational League. Every young worker is acquainted with its program. In passing we urge every young worker to purchase a copy of the official organ of the league for September. It is an illuminating and instructive number.

As the crisis manifests itself in capitalist society deeper grow the antagonisms which cause the various revolts of the working class. More and more the capitalists are driven to reduce wages in order that they might compete successfully with foreign nations in the struggle for trade. Each attempt to reduce wages, lengthen hours, etc., finds the working class offering resistance which threatens the citadels of capitalism. More and more, in order to preserve their rule, the capitalists are compelled to call upon their power—the State—to crush the rising working class. Daily it becomes more apparent that every economic struggle is a political struggle. The need for independent political action on the part of the working class is self-evident. Here the Young Workers League will play a most important part in the struggle. As was pointed out in that admirable pamphlet issued by the Young Workers League, "Youth under Americanism," the capitalist class bring all manner of pressure to bear upon the minds of the young in order that they may assist in the perpetuation of the present system. The Young Workers League will combat this foul and insidious propaganda by actively carrying out its work amongst the youth of the nation. "The future is with young," is the cry of all people. We suffer now from the rule of old men, whether at Versailles, Washington or elsewhere. A dying system totters to its grave with dying men endeavoring to sustain it in its last moments. The young must go forward and prepare the way for the new.

The Young Workers League is charged with the solemn responsibility of arousing the youth of America to the dangers that beset its path and to the necessity of organizing itself for the task of eliminating the present system. Today we are hearing of the debates on the bonus bill and so the last war still remains fresh in our minds. Because we have not forgotten the last war we can hardly realize that the next one will soon be upon us. And when war does come it will not be the old who will fight it. They will remain at home and regret "that they are not young enough to fight." It will be the young who will be drafted. It will be their blood which will drench the battlefields of the world. So on with the task. Let impetuous youth march forward and force those who lag behind to march with them. Let the youth of the nation be aroused and once that is so there is no section of the workingclass that can stay still. It will be carried along and compelled to carry out the tasks it either shirks or is ignorant of. Upon the youth of the nation depends the future. Either we leave them to the tender mercies of the ruling class and allow them to be molded into a solid bloc against all progressive movements or we step into the fight and make them the pioneers of the new social order.



# No More War?

By HARRY YOUNG

Member of the Y. C. L. of G. B.

## War is Hell.

**E**IGHT years ago in Sarajevo the heir to the Austrian throne was assassinated. In June, eight years ago, was fired the shot that began the World War.

This is proclaimed in the bourgeois press, this is written by the bourgeois historians, and it is still believed by millions of workers, who endured all the terrors of the war and the horrors of the "peace" that has followed the war.

A single shot began a world war,—whoever can believe it? And yet many workers imagine that it is true, and believe what the lying prostituted capitalist press wrote: The Serbians murdered an Austrian prince; the Austrians had to punish the Serbians; the Russians were friends of the Serbians and wished to help them; the German Kaiser was a friend of the Austrians and could not leave them in the lurch; the French sided with the Russians and so on.

But today even a child should know that this is not true, that it is nonsense. The historians also have had to think out new explanations. Today they write of the Czar who had prepared everything in secret beforehand, of Kaiser William's armaments and aggression. This one is guilty, says the one, that one began it, says the other.

## What Means this Slaughter?

What does this really mean? Did the Czar like to see corpses or was Kaiser William overjoyed with the sight of shining cannon? Were these REALLY the causes of the war?

No! The Kaisers and Kings and Republican ministers, of course, had their plans, but they were not of their own making. There were other forces, which made them and their ideas the instrument of history. "Expansion of the country," "Acquirement of new colonies." Gaining these were the aims of the war. There were the banks, which supplied the money for hundreds and thousands of great factories, with which went, of course, their instructions. There were hundreds and thousands of manufacturers and big capitalists, who wished to enlarge their factories. So in a short time there were countless plans for robbery and conquest, both secret and open, from which came the warlike instructions and decisions of the Kaisers, Kings and Governments.

For many years before June, 1914, everything had been prepared, and the revolver shot but served to put in motion the avalanche which had long been threatening.

Everything was prepared, the ruling class only awaited the opportunity to begin. Their roles were already apportioned. The coming war was discussed thousands of times in the newspapers. The capitalists were at their posts, they can look back with "a good conscience" on those days of June, 1914. They have nothing to reproach themselves with. June, 1914, recalls to them their "hey-day of prosperity."

Those days of June are full of evil memories for the working class.

While the bourgeoisie had not only well prepared for the world war, but also their version of it, as they knew very well what they had prepared and what they wanted, the working class were stumbling in the dark.

The working class believed the lies that were flooded upon them about the events of June, 1914. They believed all the fairy tales about the "cunningness" of the plans of their adversaries, about the "holy duty of defence," and everything that was written and said.

## How the Workers Were Hoodwinked.

The bourgeoisie had for years poisoned the minds of the workers with the greatest of cunning. Astutely had they perfected their methods of betrayal in June, 1914, and understood how to hoodwink the workers. The millions of workers who were the victims of this betrayal should remember this today.

Above all, it should be remembered by the young workers, who did not consciously take part in these events, how the betrayal of their fathers and brothers was accomplished. They should hold the terrible fate of the preceding generation before their eyes and rise in protest and fight.

Twenty-two million workers perished in the war, twenty-two million men died a most horrible, tortured death. Proletarians, whose historic mission it is to bring all wars to an end, fought in this war and lost their lives in millions. Proletarians, whose historic interest it is to unite as an international class against their oppressors and class enemies, split up into national armies and murdered one another. Twenty-two million workers fell at the hands of their brothers, even more were mutilated, crippled and blinded, rendered incapable of work to become miserable beggars. Beautiful cities and towns were blasted and shattered, whole districts laid waste and devastated. Production was stopped—that they might produce and provide for war.

## Imperialism and Murder.

It was the IMPERIALIST war. A war of the robber imperialist capitalist states, a war for the bourgeoisie and their BIG BUSINESS. A war for the re-division of the earth, for raw material, for coal and iron.

These two facts the working class should never forget: It was a war fought for the BOURGEOISIE and twenty-two million PROLETARIANS perished in it.

The bourgeoisie has already forgotten it. The mass of graves in which lie the heaps of killed, are scarcely covered with grass, the shattered and devastated towns and villages still lie in ruins, mutilated workers and peasants are begging pitifully at every street corner in the great cities, and the bourgeoisie are already preparing for a new war! Even the four years which have passed since the end of the "World War" have seen nothing else but war. The Poles fight the Ruthenians and have attempted to conquer Soviet Russia; they have marched in arms against Upper Silesia, and in Germany was heard again the cry, "Defence of the Fatherland!" Earlier still, the Czechs and Roumanians fought against Soviet Hungary.



### Bombed to Atoms!

A pen-picture of the next great war, with a forecast of London bombed by silent aeroplanes flying at an immense height, with projectiles of terrific power and devastating effects, is contained in a letter sent to the Premier by members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Air Committee.

The letter deals with the present position of England in the air, and mentions that during four years of peace, developments have been as great as during the war, but not on this side of the channel. The letter adds: "The size of the machines and the horsepower of engines have been increased since 1918." Some of the members of the Air Committee watched the trial of a 1,000 h.p. engine, and still greater are to be built. Engines can now be fitted with silencers, and recent discovery has enabled machines to be made almost invisible.

The bombs dropped on London during the last war averaged less than a hundred pounds in weight, many being quite small.

Bombs or torpedoes are now carried of 4,000 pounds weight, containing a mass of high explosive, and the effect of a dozen bombs of this character dropped on London can readily be conceived. Beyond this, such bombs may be filled with material even more harmful than high explosives, such as concentrated poisoned gas or germs.

There is, in fact, not merely a possibility, but a great probability, that, in the event of war, this country (England) could be raided, and London and other towns destroyed by squadrons, or even fleets of aeroplanes, travelling at 150 miles an hour at a height of three or four miles, silent, and (at least by night) invisible.

### The Next Last War.

... All great wars in the future (the Committee prophesies) will begin with terrific battles in the air. If any country suffers a real defeat in this first battle, the victor will in a few days destroy her ports, her railway centers, her munition factories, and her capital, by intensive bombardment from the air.

The Committee comes to the conclusion that, "while realizing that economy is essential for building up the British trade, the Committee thinks it might be wise to allocate in some different proportions the money now allotted to the various services, with a view to a fuller development of the Air Service. . ."

The Daily Herald comments as follows:—

"Let us cast our minds back to years before the last great war (to end war). Do you remember the days of the great dreadnought propaganda: the days when all papers talked incessantly of dreadnoughts: when they told us, day in, day out, that if we built lots and lots of dreadnoughts we should guarantee the peace of the world and the safety of the Empire: whereas, if we didn't, war would come on us, and the wrecking of homes?"

### Press and Patriotism.

"In the press, in the theatre, in the school, at the street corner, the gospel of salvation by dreadnoughts was preached. \* \* \*

"And then, remember that the dreadnought propaganda . . . which did so much to bring war . . . was largely inspired and financed by the big armament firms who made huge profits from the building of the ships.

"Remember that. And then ask yourself what is behind all this aeroplane propaganda, all this cry to us to get ready for the next great war. Armour plate patriots, the German Socialists dubbed the men who called for a big navy. (But they became themselves armour plate Socialists during the war.—Author.)

"Do you now understand about the 'aeroplane patriots' (or aeroplane socialists if need must be)? Do you understand what is behind the press campaign for a bigger air force? The economic interpretation of patriotic propaganda."

### Administration by Aeroplane.

We must add, that the aeroplane will also play another role. The capitalist press, by successfully disguising its real object, may work public opinion up to such a pitch that the government is enabled to increase the air estimates; defeated labor may be induced by its capitalist masters to build more and yet more aircraft to be used against their comrades in the social revolution. The fact remains that aeroplanes have already been used against the workers in England, Ireland, and on the Rand, and they can be used again.

Those who misgovern us see in the aeroplane the ideal weapon against the Reds. On one hand the kept press shouts about the danger of the next great last war, with terrific battles in the air, and on the other side this very same press glorifies the raids on their own people of the Empire. (Rand murders.)

England, "defender of the right of self-determination for small nations," fought these rights in Ireland, India and Egypt. In India hundreds of natives were murdered in cold blood by a British general, so foully that even the bourgeois government had to disown his action and "punish" him by dis-rating him. This gentleman, this gallant soldier, was the recipient of a handsome sum of money, raised among the bourgeoisie by public subscription, for "his gallant and devoted services to the empire." Turkey and Greece are still in arms and fighting. And all these "little wars" threaten to combine into a new, even greater and more terrible "world war." The last one was fought for coal and iron, this one will be fought for oil; the last one was a struggle between German and English capitalism, the next one will be between America and Japan, England and France, Italy and Jugo-Slavia.

### Capitalism and Civilization.

Is it the "fate" of humanity always to be at war? Will mankind always be divided into antagonistic camps, which, men call "their country, their fatherland"? And must they always slaughter one another with murderous weapons, murder, mutilate and burn, laying waste to beautiful towns and cities? Must the world always be one vast slaughter-house? Must the world always be one vast arsenal with each war yet greater and more terrible than the other?

Since the last war armies have grown greater, arms and weapons have been more perfected, new poison gases invented and prepared, submarines built in ever increasing numbers, tanks and aeroplanes without end, ready again to strew the world with corpses.

Will war always leer at us from its horrid death-mask?

Yes! Always! as long as capitalism exists!

So long as capitalism exists, so long as capitalism



rules, so long as the state is in the hands of the capitalists, so long as the bourgeoisie hold power, then so long will there be wars! War is the vital necessity for the capitalist class.

The young workers can learn from the past history of capitalism. But they must and should know at the same time, what was the attitude of the leaders of the workingclass before and after 1914 on this question of war.

### **Collapse of the Second International.**

The Second International, the laborites all over the world knew this, and proclaimed daily before the war that as long as capitalism existed, capitalist interests promoted and demanded war.

Before the war they proclaimed that its roots lay solely planted in the capitalist system.

They proclaimed furthermore that the big barons of industry and the newspapers they controlled, daily prepared public opinion for war, and in their insatiable greed for profit and booty incited them now against this capitalist country and now against that. They knew and proclaimed that the increasing armaments which were being carried out in "Defence of national interests" as a "pledge and surety of world peace," would inevitably lead to war. They proclaimed before the war that this was the sole desire of the nationalist "Jingoes," and that through the world war the capitalists were preparing nameless misery and impoverishment for the working class, so that they might increase their profits.

All this was stated at the international congress of the Second International (the Labor Party), held just before the war!

At the conferences of Zurich, Amsterdam, Stuttgart, Copenhagen, and Basel the Second International, of which the Labor Party is a principal member, openly accused the capitalists that they thought far more of their own money bags than the "interests of the nation," the "people," and humanity, far more of their own economic interests than their hypocritical speeches on "democracy." These congresses further declared that in the capitalist system of production wars were fought for capitalist economic reasons, and that it was nothing more than humbug to speak of world peace as long as capitalism exists. Every conference held by the Second International pointed out the danger threatened by capitalist war, and promised that they would do everything in their power to avert and stop it.

### **The Betrayal.**

Just as if they had never spoken, the true reasons of capitalist war vanished from the minds of the social patriots and laborites. And although an hour before the outbreak of war they raved and declaimed against the criminal jingoes and exhorted governments, warning them against playing with the people, an hour later they had forgotten it and were saying that the Austrian Archduke had been murdered, and that the national honor demanded reparation. They said that Kaiserism was mobilizing and that "civilization" must be defended. They spoke of everything except the real reason of the war, of capitalist interests, of the millions and millions of proletarians, who were about to be sacrificed they said not a word.

Not one single earnest protest was made.

They voted for the credits necessary to carry on the war.

They declaimed enthusiastically on patriotism and national defence.

They abused one another.

The Internationalists became Nationalists of the worst sort.

The apostles of world peace became shameless Jingoes.

### **More Production.**

Although they saw that the first declaration of war was the first act in the drama of the world war, they called on the people to "national defence."

Although they saw from day to day horrors of war which surpass imagination, still they cried to the suffering workers, "carry on."

Once they stood before the working class of the world and declared that they must wage the class-war, but during the war they called on the world proletariat to leave the ranks of the working class to fight for their masters, the capitalists.

The treachery they committed at the outbreak of the war was crowned by their shameless treachery at the end of the war.

The first international congress held by the Laborist Second International laid down as the first aim of the proletariat, the reconstruction of the world (workers, produce more!) a return to the conditions prevailing before the war. That means the reconstruction of consolidated capital.

War is nothing more to capitalism than any industrial crisis. These crises are born of their economic system, and from these crises they can find no way out so they seize their weapons and rush headlong to war. But still they find no solution.

### **The Fight for Markets.**

The first world-war was born by the business enmity of England and Germany. It was a matter of coal and iron. It was for raw material. It was a fight for colonies. Never to the most shortsighted eyes was the economic character of war so apparent as during the last world-war.

The world was divided anew, but capitalism was shaken to its foundations.

It has no markets. In Russia the revolution broke out and lost them the Russian market, which they had hoped to exploit and plunder as a colony.

Now the fight is being waged for new markets. Japan is fighting with America and China. England is going to fight with France in the Near East—there is a fight on the question of reparations; Germany has become a colony, for the possession of which new war is being fomented.

This is known to all the world, and is a secret to no one.

Every worker can see that war is fought for economic reasons, and that the capitalists defend their profits and not their countries.

**Capitalism is war!**

The reconstruction of capitalism means, therefore, the perpetuation of war!

To help do this means to desire new wars! New wars mean to prepare or help in preparing them.

Friends of war instead of enemies of war. This is what the Laborites have become.



**Rouse! Young Workers, Rouse!**

Capitalism is the cause of war. To abolish war we must abolish capitalism. This is the whole crux of the matter, as of all questions which affect the interests of the working class. But how is this system to be abolished? Our Russian comrades, the Russian workers, have shown a glorious and undying example. We must organize, agitate and educate. The young workers, who suffer most from wars, who provide the capitalist masters with cannon fodder, the young girls of the working class, sweated and aged before their time in the sweat shops and munition factories of capitalism, must band themselves together solidly against the cause of all war and the cause of their exploitation and misery. This determination is to be found in one organization alone. The Young Communist League of Great Britain is the expression of the revolt of the young workers against the horrors and misery of capitalism, and the expression of the determination of the young revolutionary workers to end it finally, once and for all. The Young Communist League states quite openly and frankly its determination to organize the young workers of both sexes, not to prattle hypocritically of peace while the class war is raging with ever greater fury, but to fight the class for which war is a vital necessity for its existence—to abolish capitalism. Not to make the young workers

(The above is issued in pamphlet form by the Y. C. L. of G. B.)

of Great Britain submit to the class which exploits and robs them, but to rid themselves of these tyrants, peaceably if possible, forcibly if necessary. It is no use the young workers closing their eyes to the fact that the master class will not like this, but their likes are our dislikes.

Therefore, boys and girls, think over our proposition. Consider carefully our program. Make up your mind now.

For the bosses;

For working class disarmament and greater poverty;

For the murder of the workers by the ruling class; or,

For the destruction of the system and the leisured class;

For a United Working Class Front;

Young and old for working class freedom.

Through working class freedom alone can come peace and freedom for all mankind.

In the words of Comrade Trotsky, First Commissioner for the People's Red Army, the greatest, noblest and most wonderful military machine and social institution the proletariat has yet achieved,

**"In the wars of capitalism we are pacifists."**

**"In the war of the working class we fight to the death."**

**British Young Workers Hold Congress**

Definite formation of the Young Communist League of Great Britain took place in London, beginning August 5th. The first annual convention of the Y. C. L. of Great Britain lasted two days and much important business was transacted. Fraternal greetings to the young workers of America, as well as pledges of support to the striking workers in this country, were sent to the Young Workers League of America by the congress. A national executive committee was elected with Comrade C. Redfern as national secretary. Writes Comrade Redfern: "I convey to you, on behalf of the British section of the Y. C. L. fraternal greetings for the 8th International Day of Youth."

A complete report of the British congress was forwarded to us. Our young English comrades are to be commended on the realism and thoroughness with which they approach the problems confronting the young workers in the "classical land of capitalism."

An economic thesis, which in fundamental principles is much the same as the Y. W. L. economic program, was adopted by the congress. The report on militarism brought before this congress is in line with the military thesis of the Y. C. L.

"The position of the young workers at the time of the declaration of war," says the thesis on militarism, "more than at any other time, demands imperative action. Positive action must be taken and we cease to be a fighting working class organization if we neglect to carry out our responsibility."

An instructive report on education was also accepted by the congress. Resolutions on the Indian and Irish questions were adopted, pledging support to the revolting workers.

Herewith is the resolution to the Workers of Amer-

ica that was addressed to the national office of the Y. W. L.

"That this first congress of the Y. C. L. of Great Britain sends fraternal greetings to the adult and young workers of America in their present fight against their aggressors. Further we call upon the whole organized trade unionists and workers of Britain to refrain from assisting in any way whatever the sabotaging of our American comrades in their heroic fight to maintain their standard of living."

**A Letter From a Sympathizer.**

Denver, Colo., August 22, 1922.

I recently bought at the Auditorium Bookstore in this city the June-July issue of your paper, and have read it with intense interest and admiration.

I am a middle-aged, middle-class person, of Anglo-Saxon stock and colonial descent, but nevertheless I am a radical, and I hail your movement as a most inspiring and effective factor in revolutionary progress.

It happens that testimony to its power was paid yesterday by a professor in the University of Denver. He called the attention of his class, in which I am enrolled as a summer-school student, to the alarming fact that "the radicals were organizing their young people," and so while they seemed to be less active, they were really stronger than ever. I was tempted to give him a copy of "The Young Worker," so that he might see that the young radicals were organizing themselves and that they had brains which made them far more formidable even than he dreamed, but I decided not to.

\* \* \*

Martin Abern's "Who's 'Red' and Why" is the best brief explanation I have seen of the difference between American and European working-class psychology. It is meant to explain Americans to foreigners, but I wonder if, in leaflet form, with a few changes, it might not serve to explain the anathematized "foreign radical" to the American.

You will not be able to wait, though, till time has made all American workers revolutionary, or even all parts of the country somewhat revolutionary. Coming from the Atlantic coast to Colorado, I find here a pioneer point of view, which will doubtless persist after the eastern part of the country is aflame.



# Y. C. L. Thesis on the Economic Struggle of the Young Workers

In our last issue, for the enlightenment of our readers, we reproduced the program of the Young Communist League of America, section of the Young Communist International. Herewith is the very interesting Economic Thesis of that organization as contained in a pamphlet which recently came to hand, entitled **Program, Constitution, Thesis and Resolutions of the Y. C. L. of A.**

**T**HE exploitation of the workers by the capitalist class is more intense in the United States than in any other country. The young who are employed in the industries here, what with the low wages paid them and their unorganized condition, combined with the fact that they are still immature, physically and mentally, makes them the particular portion of the American proletariat that suffers most under this system of wage-slavery.

Partly in spite, and partly because of their intense exploitation and immaturity, these millions of youthful toilers manifest no interest whatsoever in the economic or political struggles of their class. They are, in reality, an inert mass. But this mass though it has as yet shown no signs of class consciousness, nevertheless contains within itself a potential revolutionary power which knows no bounds, and which, when once brought into action under Communist leadership, will become an irresistible force for the overthrow of capitalism.

The high technical development of industry has practically eliminated the apprenticeship system as a factor in American labor, just as this development and specialization has broken down the barriers of craft. Both of these conditions are directly the result of the growth and expansion of the machine process. Today it requires but a short time to prepare any worker, young or old, to fit into the process of production, and to take part in industrial activity. In those fields where a certain degree of technical training is essential, the larger manufacturing enterprises establish special trade or training schools which, in a few weeks or months give to these young workers the preparation needed. It is evident that the policy of some of the unions to keep their craft from an oversupply of workers is futile. They only succeed with these unnecessary barriers in antagonizing the great mass of young workers, who, as a result, serve as a reliable force wherefrom willing strike-breakers and enemies of the organized labor movement are readily recruited.

The Young Communist League of America is fully aware of the great importance of reaching the mass of youthful toilers, and of an extensive and active participation in the daily economic struggle of the workers. This cannot be done except in co-operation with the Communist party. Both organizations must assist the other in devising the ways and means whereby the Communists can bring the masses into action and then assume the leadership over them.

The policy of the Communists is to bring about the unification of the organized labor movement as the first step toward revolutionizing it. This can be accomplished only through a definite stand of working with the existing mass unions, and striving with every means at our disposal to prevent the formation of separate, "pure" or "revolutionary" unions. Dual unionism is a hindrance and a handicap to progress and must be condemned. The Young Communist League declares its complete approval of the decisions

of the Communist International, the Red Labor Union International, and the Communist party of America in this respect. Its members must join the unions of their respective trade or industry, and conscientiously work to gain leadership for the Communists over the organized masses.

The unification of the organized labor movement and the adjustment of its forms of organization to the economic conditions prevailing at this time is imperative before the unions can become militant organs of the struggle for proletarian power. This is also a necessary condition preliminary to raising the conception of the masses from a purely economic struggle to a political struggle.

The illegality of the Communist party of America forces it to work through other instruments such as its legal political organ and special organizations embracing still wider masses of "left" elements within the existing labor organizations. The Y. C. L. of A. does not intend to create any special apparatus for carrying through its work in the unions, but all of its members shall be a part and parcel of the regular CP nuclei, as well as of the caucuses of the other instruments which the CP has under its control. Only on certain special occasions shall the Y. C. L. members constitute themselves as a Young Communist nuclei to consider matters dealing specially with the working youth. In general, all matters affecting the young workers and pertaining to the economic struggle shall be carried through and presented to the labor movement by the largest possible section of left elements within the labor unions.

The Y. C. L. of America also being an underground organization, must necessarily utilize its open medium to carry on the greater part of its work in reaching and organizing the young upon the economic field, and of making them conscious of their tasks. It shall, therefore, make its open expression as active and aggressive as it possibly can be, and it will devote particular attention toward making that organization lead in this work. The young communists within this organization shall constantly strive to have it become more and more clearly the communist vanguard for the exploited youth; to extend and intensify its activities, to make them assume a more and more revolutionary nature, and to pass from the purely economic to the political field of struggle thus bringing these masses of workers closer and closer to a truly communist position.

The exploitation of the young, and of forcing them to compete with their elders in the sale of their labor power is a constant menace to the workers, and tends to reduce their already low standard of living still lower. An aggressive fight must be waged against all forms of child labor, both for the purpose of allowing a living wage for the adult workers as well as to prevent the physical and mental deterioration of the younger generation—an inevitable consequence of the exploitation of children.



The Y. C. L. must work to abolish all long apprentice terms in those unions where this system still prevails; must work for the removal of any and all barriers which prevent the young workers from becoming regular members with full privileges in the unions, or from receiving less wages than are paid to other workers in the same trade or industry.

Special attempts must be made to organize the young in those particular fields of work where they constitute the bulk or great majority of the workers

(messengers, telephone operators, newsboys, employees in the large mercantile establishments, and in the textile mills, particularly of the South.)

Examples of other points to be stressed and agitated for are: no child under the age of 18 shall be allowed to work in factories, mines, mills or stores; young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years shall be permitted to work no more than six hours per day. Night work or overtime work should be prohibited up to 20 years.

## The Basis for Prostitution in Capitalism

By EDGAR HART.

PROSTITUTION is increasing throughout the entire world at an unheard of rapid rate. The young girls of the working class are forced into this most shameful life because of the low and degrading standards of living now prevalent in capitalist countries. The capitalists of the United States, though this country has not suffered the extreme devastation of the European and Asiatic countries, are foremost in the wholesale reduction of the standards of the wage-earners, and especially the girls and women, thus dragging them down to the depths of the professional prostitute.

Buckle shows in his *History of Civilization* by an array of statistics covering a long period of years that in England all kinds of crimes, prostitution included, increased or decreased exactly as the price of bread went up or down.

That immediately brings us to the relation of prostitution to the general economic condition of the working class, and particularly the question of low wages as a factor in producing prostitutes.

There are three methods of explaining prostitution: (1) theological, (2) psychological, and (3) the communistic.

Theologians; if they are consistent, tell us prostitution originated with the downfall of Adam. Psychologists inform us by wheighty formulas that prostitution is a condition of the mind; (this is the explanation accepted by the capitalist class) while those who analyze prostitution in the light of historical materialism point to the fact that prostitution has its origin in the beginning of private property, and reaches its highest and most despicable form under advanced capitalism.

It is not the purpose of these articles to go into a history of the various forms of prostitution, but only to make an inquiry into prostitution as it exists today. Yet to know a thing one must have at least a glimpse of its history. Frederick Engels provides that most briefly in the following paragraph:

"The surrender for money was at first a religious act; it took place in the temple of the goddess of love and the money flowed originally into the treasury of of temple. The hierodulae of Anaitis in Armenia, of Aphrodite in Corinth and the religious dancing girls of India attached to the temples, the so-called bajaderes (derived from the Portugese "bailadera," dancing girl), were the first prostitutes. \* \* \* With the rise of different property relations, in the higher stage of barbarism, wage labor appears sporadically by the side of slavery, and at the same time its unavoidable companion, professional prostitution of free women by the

side of the forced surrender of female slaves." (Origin of the Family.)

And then comes capitalism and forces more and more women into industry as "free" wage workers. The slavegirls have been done away with, and hence all the prostitutes must be provided by the working class. In the United States in 1910 there were 8,075,772 women working. The war came. Girls and women began to flood into industry and agriculture. The 1920 census showed that there were in the country 8,549,399, which means at the same time a vast increase in the number of prostitutes as we propose to show herein.

What significance has the entry of women into industry when considering the question of prostitution?

"When a woman enters the factory, when she becomes a wage-earner she is from time to time exposed just like a man to all hardships of unemployment. Associated with this we have prostitution, when a woman sells herself to the first comer in the street. \* \* \* Nothing to eat, no work, hunted from everywhere; and even if she has work, the wages are so low that she may be compelled to supplement her earnings by the sale of her body. After a time, the new trade becomes habitual. Thus arises the caste of professional prostitutes.

"In big towns, (Industrial centers) prostitutes are found in very large numbers. \* \* \* Capital uses them as a source of profit and enrichment. Especially repulsive is child prostitution."—(A. B. C. of Communism, by Bucharin and Preobrazhensky.)

### An Investigation of Vice.

A committee was elected by the Illinois Senate in 1913 to "investigate vice" with power to take sworn testimony. The work was started by this committee in 1913 and a report published and accepted in 1916. The general findings of this body when first made public, were given fairly wide publicity, but continued silence on the part of the capitalist press, and the habit of the labor press to overlook unpleasant realities, has done much to quiet the startling findings of this Vice Committee and also to convey the general belief that conditions have been remedied.

The reverse is true. Today prostitution is more rampant than ever. Why? The conditions which are the primary cause of this curse of the working-class are more productive of prostitution than they ever were because they have been aggravated.

Let us look into the findings of this Commission, which are corroborated by the results of other bodies all over the world of a similar nature, and then glance at conditions in the United States after the great war



for "democracy." Point blank, the first conclusion after three years of work is: **That poverty is the principal cause, direct and indirect, of prostitution.**

The words **poverty** and **poor** are used indiscriminately by investigating bodies such as this one, and by capitalistic sociologists. It covers many sins of the system. In *Youth Under Americanism* the authors have occasion to point out a flagrant conflict in the use of the terms **worker** and **poor**.

**Poverty** is a loose term and it is well to spike any misconceptions which may arise in its use hereafter. "The people are land poor" is a common expression in the modern law; that is, the vast majority is without real estate. The general conception of poverty conveyed by the average capitalistic writer is that the sufferer has either met with an accident or is naturally shiftless and worthless. The fact of the matter is, the great majority of the workers suffer from poverty, which means, in its final analysis that the workers do not receive a sufficient income, no matter how hard and persistently they labor and endeavor to save, to maintain a fair standard of living.

Says A. Epstein, in his book, *Facing Old Age*:

"Poverty in old age, it is asserted, is chiefly the result of improvidence, intemperance, extravagance, thriftlessness, or similar vice. More and more, however, it is coming to be recognized by all students of social and economic conditions that with the cost of living soaring continuously the great masses of wage-earners cannot lay aside from current wages sufficient to provide for possible emergencies. This has become especially patent as careful data on wages and incomes have been gathered by such students and responsible organizations as Chapin, Ryan, Streightoff, Nearing, the United States Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the United States Department of Labor, the National Industrial Conference Board, and many of the state bureaus." (p. 5.)

The general conception disseminated that the poor and destitute are so because of their own volition is a capitalist subterfuge. So much for poverty.

The Illinois Vice Committee quotes numerous state commissions and authorities to prove its contention, that the backbone of prostitution is the economic dependency into which hundreds of thousand of the young girls of the working class are thrown.

"That thousands of girls are driven into prostitution because of the sheer inability to keep body and soul together on the low wages received by them," is another finding.

It is well that we proceed to the facts which lead to these conclusions. Too often we hear that the girls themselves are to blame. "Why don't they resist temptation," is the retort of the employers when the finger of accusation is pointed at them. "It is because the girls want fineries and luxuries, or are mentally deficient that they become recruits of the system of vice," reply others of the capitalist class. But no figures are offered. Facts are absent. Mere statements and sophistry are substituted for proof.

Can we ask of the capitalists that they indict their own system? No man is ready to accuse himself. Each is ready to defend his interests.

The economic status and the question of wages are not the only things to be considered in a determination of the causes and continuation, as well as the increase of prostitution. But that they are **primary** in considering the question of this social evil is the opinion of every student and writer who has examined the subject in a scientific manner. Other factors are secondary and find their expression only when the girl has, through awful environment and a long period of low wages, been shorn of resistive power.

The Illinois Vice Committee carried on a most extensive investigation into the subject of prostitution and its extenuating circumstances. The work was honestly done with a view of eradicating this evil in the present system of society. That the wage question is one that touches the very life of capitalism and can not be settled within the frame-work of the present system of production was never touched, nor could it be.

This is borne out by the fact that nine years after this extensive investigation took place at an enormous cost, prostitution today in the state of Illinois and everywhere is on an increase. The evil has reached such proportions in Chicago that special organizations have been formed to eradicate it. Naturally they fail and will fail. One organization publicly charged that there were over 1,000 houses of prostitution in the city of Chicago either wide open or semi-public.

(To be continued in next issue.)

## Into the Fight, Young Workers!

By MARTIN ABERN

(Speech delivered at the Labor Lyceum, St. Louis, Mo., on International Youth Day, Sunday, September 3rd, 1922.)

**T**ODAY we are met to celebrate International Youth Day. Today in nearly all lands and climes, the youth, the young workers of the world have come together to view their past struggles with the imperialist powers of the world. Youth of the hot Spanish blood, youth of the phlegmatic German, youth of the impulsive Italian, youth of the victorious Russian, youth of the determined English, youth of the energetic American—the youth of these and other lands today count their victories, their defeats, the loss of the life-blood of working men and women on the battlefield of freedom; count their mistakes, their blunders—and then again gird their loins and make ready for the fray. Ready once again to battle with greater

determination for the overthrow of the robbers and oppressors of the masses of the people, and for the establishment of a society of free men and women, a society based on the willingness of men and women to work for the social betterment, to produce of the good things of life for the use of all mankind and not for the few capitalist bandits. Such a society as our Russian brothers and comrades are fighting, struggling, starving, dying for, that the future may live, are determined must be—Communism.

We meet to celebrate this day of days of the young revolutionary workers of the world. Yet International Youth Day is not so much a day of celebration as a day when we must take up the immediate and pressing



tasks of the working class youth. But before we discuss some of these problems, let us first see when and how and why International Youth Day came into being.

Out of the great war of Imperialism, International Youth Day came into existence. When in August, 1914, the Social-Democratic parties deserted the cause of the working class, destroyed the United Front of the workers against war and capitalism, and scurried over into the camps of the bourgeoisie and began shooting one another, it was youth who still retained faith in an International of the workers. While most workers were bathing in an ocean of blood, the few who still retained their class-consciousness and especially the youth, met to revive the class spirit of the workers and the revolutionary ideals. At Berne, in 1915, the International Union of Socialist Youth was formed and issued the challenge of the revolutionary workers—"WAR AGAINST THE WAR!" That was then the immediate problem before the workers.

#### Revolutionists' Persecution.

Persecution followed persecution. The few European revolutionists were outlawed, many were shot. Slowly, step by step, was the ground gained. But the appeal of the International Union of Socialist Youth was not in vain. Steadily more and more workers, young and old, flocked round the banners of the revolutionary vanguard. This is the great historical significance of International Youth Day: that it was the first real international demonstration against the imperialist war, against the capitalist class, and, aye and sadly enough, against the traitors within the ranks of the working class. While the traitorous Social-Democrats hastened to answer the jingo call of capitalism, the revolutionary youth raised aloft the red banner of Revolution and prepared for the struggle. The International Day of Youth was the fore-runner of the World Revolution and of the Revolutionary Third (Communist) International.

Out of struggle, then, out of terrible conflict, the militant day of the International Union of Socialist Youth, which was the name of the Young Communist International at that time, arose, even as the Young Communist International arose out of battle, in the midst of revolution.

At its birth, therefore, the slogan of International Youth Day, of the International Union of Socialist Youth, was "War Against the War," against militarism.

For the eighth time now is the working youth of the world engaging in the celebration of International Youth Day, in America for the first time on a national scale. And with each succeeding year, greater became the demonstrations against war, more determined and energetic the struggle against capitalism. And it was youth who, especially in the first years of the great World War, bore the brunt of the attacks, who moved first against the Capitalist International. Where there were no revolutionary political parties or only weak parties, it was the young communist organizations which initiated the slogans of the day and carried on the revolutionary fights and demonstrated for the political struggle.

#### Vanguard Struggles Against Capitalism.

And as during the early years of the World War, the struggle of the revolutionary vanguard was against that war of capitalism, so it continued during the entire

course of the war. Yet the exploitation of the workers by capitalism and its sacrifices of the young workers was so great that even back in 1916 the International Union of Socialist Youth in its program called for a struggle for the improvement of the workers' economic life and conditions.

With the collapse of capitalism in Russia; with the formation of a workers' revolutionary government in Russia, the Soviet Government; with the establishment once again of a real Workers' International, the Third (Communist) International, hopes of a speedy world collapse of capitalism revived in the working-class. And at the close of the capitalist war, the slogan of the workers changed. In Central Europe the slogan was the immediate struggle for working class power—FOR ALL POWER TO THE SOVIETS! Then civil war, then heavy conflicts raged between the workers and the capitalists and their hirelings. The war not of workers slaughtering workers, but the War Of The Classes—workers versus capitalists and the capitalist tools. In 1919 and 1920, Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria—all Central Europe struggled for power.

But—and we cannot go into all the reasons for that at this time—the battle has not yet been completely and finally won. Capitalism, aided by working class traitors, has staved off its inevitable defeat. Desperate, fearful of its fate, it has struck out with all its remaining strength at the workers. To a certain extent, and only temporarily of course, capitalism revived and launched its greatest offensive against the working class and its youth. And the working class and the youth have had to battle for their very existence and lives.

Capitalism, realizing that its greatest enemy and the workers' best friend was and is Soviet Russia, did its utmost to crush the Workers' Government. However, we are all acquainted with the magnificent resistance of the Russian workers and peasants to the counter-revolutionary armies and their victories over them; so we need not recount that here . . . Then came the famine in Russia and where bullets could not defeat the workers' Soviet Government, it seemed that lack of bread would do that. But we also know how thru the generous response and aid of the workers of the world, Soviet Russia is successfully passing thru that crisis. Yet, because of this famine, the working youth had another battle besides that of the direct struggle against capitalism. In 1921, therefore, the slogan of International Youth Day was fundamentally to save the Russian Revolution by aid to the famine stricken.

#### Capitalism Is On the Offensive.

Today capitalism's offensive is still on—and also the workers' resistance. So horrible and terrible has become the misery, the degradation and exploitation of the working masses of Europe, that the fight in Europe—the immediate fight and need—has become a struggle for bread. The working class must first live, if it is to carry on the struggle against capitalist exploitation and in time conquer the capitalist government and capitalist system. Hence the immediate slogan and necessity in Europe to-day is: Prevent the Pauperization of the Working Class! If the working class is not yet ready to unite for the revolution, then let it unite that it may have bread, that it may not die of starvation. And so the cry in Europe on this eighth year of the International Day of Youth, the cry of the



revolutionary workers, of the Communist International, of the Young Communist International is: The United Front of Labor to prevent further exploitation and further degradation of the proletariat!

And now, comrades, what of America? We participate in this International Youth Day for the first time on a national scale in conjunction with the youth of all the world; we take part in this celebration—rather in this International ACTION—of the young workers of the world. This is well and indicates that the revolutionary youth of America is now ready and desirous of entering the struggle against world imperialism and exploitation side by side with the young workers of other countries and under the direction and leadership of the vanguard of the young workers, the Young Communist International.

Not in words, tho, can the American Youth, can the Young Workers League, prove that it is ready to help lead in the fight against capitalism, against exploitation, against militarism. Thru the clarity of its program and purpose, thru action, participation in the daily work and battles of the workers in the shops, fields and mills, can the Young Workers League of America demonstrate that it is the revolutionary expression of the American youth, prepared to carry out, so far as it is able to, the program of the Young Communist International; only thru that contact and struggle by the side of the other workers can it obtain the confidence of the masses of the young workers, who will then be willing to accept its leadership and guidance.

Really to carry out the purpose and spirit of International Youth Day, to gain this confidence of the young workers, to show that we mean business, what must we do? What are our problems and duties in America?

#### Problems of Young.

They are many indeed, but in particular, it is our task and duty, that of all workers, to enter the fight against the campaign of wage-cutting—a problem of all workers, young and old; second, to resist far more strongly than has been done, the attempt to force the Open Shop on the workers of America; third, to combat the increasing tendency for the use of child-labor; lastly, to carry on always our revolutionary education among the workers that we, that all workers, may understand and better know the action they must take if exploitation is to be abolished.

Economically, the workers in America have not yet been pushed to the perilous level and degrading life of the European proletariat—not yet. Europe is starving. We eat something—yet. Europe begs for crumbs. How soon will it be before the American worker is so badly crushed that he too will be looking longingly for the few crusts that will be thrown him as if he were some mongrel or cur of the streets? Not so soon, do you think, my comrades? Too soon, already in many places in this country, unless the workers of America awaken to the danger and make more determined resistance to the blows of the plutocrats of America.

With the World War's end, the imperialists of America made up their minds that they were going to stop once and for all the ever increasing demands of the workers for more wages, which would bring more of the good things of life to the workers. The workers, were becoming too prosperous, don't you know—some

of them even owned a silk shirt or a Ford. Quite preposterous! A stop must be put to such aristocratic notions. Silk shirts, good cars, fine food, beautiful dwellings, ah yes, these are made by the workers, but they are not for the workers to have. And this, not because the American capitalists were afraid that the workers were receiving too much, but because they felt that as the workers began to demand more and more and to need more, they would in time demand their heritage—the earth and all that is therein! And most of all American capitalist bandits have declared that wages must come down because they can't afford to pay living wages. That sounds queer, doesn't it? And yet there is economic truth and law behind it. American capitalism cannot stand the competition of foreign-made goods unless it can reduce wages and increase the amount of exploitation. And there you have the further irony of capitalist society. The capitalists knowing that the workers have not sufficient, yet being unable to give more. And so capital say that wages must come down. And where the workmen refuse to accept this verdict of starvation, and capital by itself cannot defeat the workers, it makes use of its political arm, of the state-injunctions, the capitalist army, the militia, other thugs and gunmen.

But the workers cannot think and act according to the needs of the capitalists. They must formulate their demands in accordance with their own needs. If the capitalists say: "But we cannot afford to give you more," the workers must reply: "Our need is greater than thine." And then take it. The attempt of the American pirates to browbeat the American working class into a coolie standard of life must be resisted to the utmost by all workers—youth and adult alike. There can be no hesitation on this score. It is for us, the Young Workers League, to render all possible aid in this battle for elemental and primitive needs. As young workers, we must take part in this struggle to prevent increasing exploitation. The Young Workers League must use its energies to prevent other young workers and students from scabbing on workers who may be on strike. We must urge all workers to unite in this fight, to join the unions if they have not already done so; and agitate for the amalgamation of the unions that the workers may better resist and battle the capitalist class. We must carry on the work of education to the purpose that the workers may realize, that to end this conflict of the classes, they must direct their energies and strength against the system of capitalist society itself and its protector, the capitalist government.

#### Struggle Against Wage-Cuts.

This struggle to prevent the further wage reductions is decisively important to the workers. Meekly to submit to these slashes of the employers would result in the weakening of the fighting ability and resistance of the workers. To give in without battle would be to become mere slaves—humble, beggarly slaves, with the cringing morale of a beaten slave. We are slaves all of us—wage-slaves, but let us be rebellious slaves; for thinking, rebellious slaves are the hopes of the world. For in rebel slaves is generated that power which will some day overcome and destroy capitalism.

On every hand we have evidence that the American working-class does not propose to submit easily to the



dictates of the capitalist class. And we, young workers, we the Young Workers League, must encourage and aid these resisting and struggling workers. Six hundred thousand workers refused to dig coal because they knew that the wages offered them meant that their lot was starvation. And rather than work and starve they said, "If we must starve, we will fight and starve!" Four hundred thousand railroad men have said, "We refuse to be coolies!" And they struck. Textile workers, one hundred thousand strong, refused to bend their necks and to accept the yoke of humble slavery, and they too walked out. And that spirit we see everywhere in America, a spirit that we, as workers and members of the Young Workers League must enter into and strengthen. For it is in the daily strife that the workers will gain experiences and begin to grasp an understanding of the necessity of aiming for the complete overthrow of capitalist society.

The American working class is battling nobly against these wage slashes; against odds indeed, but battling still. Pressed to the wall, attacked by soldiers of a capitalist government and by capitalist thugs these men have fought back. And many scabs now lay underneath the earth in Illinois and West Virginia, because LABOR is becoming FIGHTING LABOR! All honor to the battling miners of Illinois and West Virginia. They have taught scabs a lesson which will not soon be forgotten by the capitalists and their hirelings. But they have done more than that. They have taught a lesson in tactics to the American working class, which we believe the workers will not forget, but will remember and do more than remember when the hour of the Social Revolution in America strikes!

Resistance to wage cuts therefore is one of the problems and duties of the American working class. The Young Workers League must enter into these struggles and fight side by side of these fellow workers. But more than that. As class-conscious workers we must bring our understanding of social problems, of the profit system to bear upon the workers; we must propagandize and educate, that the workers may sooner see the futility of fighting the struggle on the basis of wages and capitalist control—where the cards are ever stacked against the workers—and thereafter direct their energies for the absolute elimination of the system of wage-labor and of capitalist government.

### Open Shop Problem.

In connection with all that has been said here to-day on the matter of wage cuts it is impossible to leave out the Open Shop problem. We need not tell you what is the Open Shop. You are all too well acquainted with its workings and what an evil it is for the workers. Suffice it to say, that the Open Shop must be fought without stint or limit. The attempt of the capitalist class to destroy every vestige of strength and power of the workers must be combatted to the end—else American labor is dealt a blow from which it would take years to recover. The Open Shop in America would mean no more nor less than plain feudalism and feudal conditions for the working class. The organized labor movement smashed, and then all that the workers of this country have gained thru many years of fierce battle, hunger, starvation and jails, would be swept away over night. Maintaining of the Closed Shop, then, becomes an immediate necessity and a revolutionary duty. And we have every evidence that the

workers are realizing what the Open Shop means and are resisting it with all their might. The Young Workers League, too, must lend encouragement and support to all workers engaged in this worthy struggle.

However, to an immediate problem now directly affecting the young workers, that of Child Labor. Capitalism sucks every drop of blood it can from its victims. The capitalists are the blood-sucking drones of society and care not who are their victims—be they the gray-haired old men hurried to the pauper's home after being bled white for profits, or the little children in the Southern cotton fields, in the poisonous canning factories, in the tubercular-breeding textile mills. Profits. That is all capitalism hopes for, thinks for, drives for. And its government of course, render its masters every aid. So long as profits could be ground out nicely enough without much use of children, capital permitted itself the moral pleasantries and amusing irony of a Child Labor Law. When then the Child Labor Law became restrictive, its willing tool, the Supreme Court, declared this law unconstitutional. And that is what one must expect from class institutions, from class society. The Supreme Court is obeying its master.

And need we add any word to the character of capitalist government, of the capitalist courts, other than to mention the injunction (the Daugherty injunction) of the other day against the striking railroad shopmen? Was ever better the court, the judiciary of the United States, shown to be but an organ, a groveling servant of the capitalist class? And need we say anything else concerning that injunction other than that ALL WORKERS must resist and fight that and all injunctions? And is it not now clear that the government of the United States is the capitalist class?

To the child labor question, again. The working class of America cannot stand for child labor. Its use means the impoverishment and degradation not only of the children, but also of the entire working class. Employment of children reduces the wages of the adult workers, in fact replaces them in many instances by children. More members of the family must labor to get the same—a little bread, just enough for existence. This is not a matter of the right or wrongness of child labor. Let us not consider it from the standpoint of morals, but as a simple economic problem affecting each and every wage earner and family. This attack upon the living standard of the workers, the most vicious attack in its way, an attack without restraint, nor care, nor thought of its results, must be fought. This is a fundamental and immediate issue and it is for the organized labor movement to move strongly against this latest smash of capitalism. Young members cannot help but fight hard. Child labor is degrading, physically, morally, intellectually. All strength and powers are sapped from the young children. Child labor tends to make morons—undeveloped, or rather underdeveloped, men and women. Child labor pauperizes the working class. It kills the hope of the future. We must not permit birth to become death! If ever capitalism is revealed in all its ugliness, if ever government is again proved to be but a class instrument, a class club, it is proved now in the actions and attempts of the capitalists and the government to institutionalize Child Labor in America. Young workers! Fight this capitalist scourge as you



have never fought aught else before. Don't let them draw your last breath for profits. All workers must work on this issue: Children shall not work!

And lastly, comrades, what is our task? Youth, we are told, is to be the leader of the future world revolution. His shall be the task to educate, to lead, to organize, to battle against the forces of capitalist tyranny and exploitation. That is well indeed if that is the role of the young workers. But if this is the task and duty of leadership, the young workers must prepare themselves for that work.

#### Must Not Lose Sight of Goal.

We have seen, found it necessary, that we shall engage in the daily struggles with the other workers, that we shall carry on the fight for certain fundamental needs of all workers. But we must not lose sight of the revolutionary goal—the elimination of capitalist society and its replacement by a dictatorship of the proletariat, functioning thru the Soviet Government, aiming and preparing for the free social order of communism.

And hence education based on the teachings of revolutionary Marxism also becomes our immediate task. For without this preparation, without this clarity of thought, of purpose, then we are lost. Then our action would be stupid and blind. The slogan of the Young Workers League, let us not forget, comrades, is: Clarity and Action.

In Russia, for example, comrades, the young workers and young Communists make up the red army, the defenders of the Soviet Republic. They are leaders

in the new educational work, in the unions, in the arts, etc. As is to be expected, if they fulfill properly the role allotted them by history, youth will be the backbone of the revolutionary workers, its fighting vanguard. The young workers must not be led astray by the siren call of reformism, but must always maintain their clarity of purpose and action. Thru close study and thru application of that education, thru education and action will we learn the proper tactics. It is because for years back the educational work has been neglected, or worse yet, perverted, that the revolutionary movement in America has been in a great part so backward, disrupted and broken within itself. Social-Democratic education, reformist education instead of class education, has not only hindered, but positively harmed the development of the revolutionary movement here. Let us not forget these mistakes and lessons. Let us hereafter carry on our educational work, our whole activity in the direction of our goal, to the end that every move we make, every action we take brings us closer to the day of final conflict, the day of revolution and a worker's Soviet Republic in America.

Youth's role then, what is it? This: thru their keen brains, their strong arms, thru their organized political and economic strength, youth shall lead the workers of the world for the overthrow of capitalist society, of wage-slavery and toward the new society—communism.

Prepare for the day when the iron battalions of the working class shall throttle capitalist despotism and capitalist government forever!

## News of the Leagues

**I**NTERNATIONAL Youth Day, celebrated for the first time in the United States on a national scale and in conjunction with the revolutionary young workers of the world, was highly successful in many cities throughout the country. Where there were no branches of the Young Workers League in existence, the Workers Party branches, in many instances, held a Youth Day celebration; for the Workers Party recognized the importance of this day to the revolutionary workers.

The success of this Youth Day will encourage the Leagues as they now make preparations for the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Russian Soviet republic November 7. In this the Y. W. L. will work together with the Workers Party. The experiences gained from IYD will be of undoubted benefit as we make ready for the next great day of the young workers—Liebknecht Day, January 20, 1923.

Despite the threat of further raids, Chicago carried on its Youth Day celebration, a crowd of 200 attending. Max Salzman of New York was the main speaker. At the IYD meeting in Milwaukee Salzman also spoke, and to a good-sized audience.

#### Minneapolis meeting Successful.

Minneapolis held one of the most successful IYD celebrations in the country. The crowd was very much pleased with the League spirit and the speaking and entertainment program which was given. The finan-

cial returns were excellent—the National Office being one of the chief beneficiaries thereby. There is an enthusiastic bunch of young workers there, and they are getting results.

Five speakers from the Young Workers League and the Workers Party addressed the IYD meeting in New York. Among the speakers was J. Louis Engdahl, co-editor with Bill Dunne, of the "Worker."

The IYD meeting in St. Louis attracted 200 young and adult workers. Martin Abern and a comrade who spoke in Jewish, were the speakers. After the speaking, a dance took place. We can expect the St. Louis branches to grow swiftly. The vim of the comrades here is fine.

The Workers Party Branch of Rochester, N. Y., took charge of the IYD affair in that city and held a good meeting.

#### Cops Interested in Youth Day Meet.

Daisytown and Monessen, Pa.—These two Leagues, situated in small mining towns, can give many lessons to the other Leagues in the way of conducting their meetings and carrying on their work. These two Leagues co-operated nicely for IYD. On September 2, Monessen gave its affair and the Daisytown comrades added their program to that of the Monessen comrades. The next day, the Monessen comrades reciprocated at the meeting in Daisytown. Comrade Calvert spoke at the Daisytown meeting and Comrade Merrick, district



organizer of the Workers Party, District 5, at the Monessen celebration. He gave a very interesting talk on the role of the young workers. . . .

That these Leagues are making good was evidenced by the large crowds present, and especially by the fact that "the authorities saw fit to send 14 state police to keep order and to question us whether we were spreading any propaganda against their bosses! . . . Their coming did not stop us from going through our program as previously arranged . . . the cops serving as a good example of the tools used by the bosses . . . to prevent the truth being told . . ."

#### Weather Interferes at Gardner, Mass.

Gardner, Mass., YWL had a crowd of 300 at its outdoor meeting although threatening weather kept many away. A program in three languages, English, Finnish, and Lithuanian, was given. All went well, except that the speaker advertised to talk in English, whom the Workers Party was to send, failed to appear. Failure of any speaker to appear as scheduled hurts the confidence of the workers in us. We hope that in future these mistakes will not occur.

#### Withstand Intimidation in Seattle.

Although "finks", stool-pigeons and others of like caliber try to intimidate the comrades in Seattle, Wash., the League has refused to be deterred in its work. IYD went thru with a bang. Three comrades of the League addressed the meeting—Reiseroff, Borgeson, and Williamson. League members have been appearing before the unions quite regularly. The Machinest's Union, after listening to a Yowl, endorsed the Young Workers League. Our young comrades have appeared also before the Boilermakers' and other unions. Other Leagues would do well to follow this form of activity. The spirit of the Seattle of 1918, of the general strike days, is returning.

Aberdeen, Wash., works hard and steadily. Immediately after its IYD meeting it sent in a donation for the YCI Observer Fund. These comrades are quiet and modest, but they do real work.

### The Young Workers League and the American Legion.

In the August issue of the American Legion Weekly appears an article entitled "America's Youth and the Reds," which concerns itself mainly with an exposition of the Young Workers League of America. We received the article too late for comment in the current issue of the Young Worker but in the November issue, we shall discuss this lengthy effulgence in the American Legion's official organ. This, we feel sure, will prove most interesting reading to our comrades and to all those interested in the development of a Young Workers' movement aiming for the abolition of a system of society which breeds American Legions and other White Guard organizations.

"Every class struggle is a political struggle. The class in power utilizes every means at its disposal to crush and subdue the workers. The workers, laboring under the illusion that theirs is simply a struggle against an individual boss or corporation, do not perceive that the government is a handmaid of the bosses, used by them against the workers whenever a critical situation arises." From the **Manifesto and Program of the Y. W. L.**

Los Angeles staged a very good program on Youth Day, which attracted a large crowd of young workers. The membership is increasing rapidly. Los Angeles hopes to double its numbers by winter.

#### Reports Not Completed.

Reports from all branches on Youth Day meetings have not yet come in. Bethlehem, Washington, San Francisco, Oakland, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, Boston, Perth Amboy, Cleveland, Buffalo, Montreal, Astoria, Portland, Maynard and many other Leagues made extensive preparations for IYD. We may expect to hear of very good results from the most of these.

New branches have been established in Omaha, Nebr., Kansas City, Mo., a Jewish branch in Newark, N. J., and Hungarian branches in Philadelphia, Detroit and Cleveland. The language branches were formed through the initiative of the Language Propaganda Committees, and the English branches through the aid of Workers Party members.

The Kansas City comrades are getting busy at once. Their study class is started. They will work with the Workers Party in raising funds for the defense of the men arrested in the recent "Red Raids."

#### Hold IYD Meet in Center of Re-action.

Gary, Ind., held a very good meeting on Youth Day. Maintenance of any workers organization is difficult in Gary, but we notice, too, that the most militant of workers are to be found there. Gary is the center of re-action in the U. S.

We make an urgent request that more members of the League send in articles for the "Young Worker." We want the expression of the membership, and the only way we can get that is to have the members write in and tell us what they think.

We have gotten over the summer months successfully and now we expect, and feel certain, that all leagues will increase their activities manifold.

We ask you to push the sale of the **Program, Manifesto and Constitution** of the League. This is a very good educational and propaganda pamphlet and deserves a wide circulation.

### Kinfolk.

By KATHARINE FISHER.

In the house of my kinfolk I am alien.  
Our Mayflower blood, once heretical, rebel,  
Flows now in their veins orthodox, Tory;  
Only in mine the old freedom beats the new barriers.

My mother-tongue in the mouth of my kinfolk  
to me is foreign, praising law perverted to tyranny,  
Censuring a juster order because justice is strange, involves  
changes.  
But native to my heart is the speech of the Italian weaver on  
strike  
Exhorting his comrades.  
I understand not his words, but I understand him.

And closer to me than sisters  
Are Jewish girls, orient-eyed and voluble,  
Garment-workers standing loyally one by another,  
Daughters, like me, of a pilgrim line,  
Of a people persecuted, exiled, pioneers of liberty.

With these I am at home;  
In the house of my kinfolk I am an alien.

(From "The Freeman".)



# The Red Raids.

*Statement on the Prosecution of Communists  
and the present Situation in the United States*

To All Workers in the United States:—

**D**URING the past few weeks we have witnessed the most brutal attacks by the United States government on the radical organizations of the workers through the arrest of some of the most active and prominent members of the Workers Party, the Trade Union Educational League and the Young Workers League. The basis of the arrests is supposed participation in an alleged "Underground and Illegal" convention of the Communist Party of America, held at Bridgeman, Michigan.

Among the 17 arrested at Bridgeman were C. E. Ruthenberg, National Secretary of the Workers Party, William F. Dunn, Labor Editor of "The Worker," and other active members of the Workers Party. Included are also several of the most active members of the Young Workers League.

The National office of the Trade Union Educational League was raided and its Secretary, Wm. Z. Foster, arrested and extradited to Michigan on the charge of participating in the alleged convention in Michigan. Eleven members were arrested in the raid on the First National Convention of the Trade Union Educational League. Two prominent members of the Workers Party have been arrested during the last few days in New York.

## WHY THESE ARRESTS?

Ostensibly these men are subjected to this latest act of terrorism on the part of the government, through its Department of Justice, headed by the notorious Wm. J. Burns, aided and abetted by the infamous private Detective Agency carrying his name, for taking part in an alleged convention of an organization outlawed and declared "illegal" and "conspiratorial" by the United States government.

Immediately after the close of the World War, the capitalists of the United States started their campaign for the reduction of the wages of the workers, longer working hours, and for the "open shop." Complete submission of the workers is their aim; disorganization in the ranks of the organized workers, the smashing of the trade unions, their method. The capitalists realized, however, the shortcomings of this procedure in itself. Hence, the revolutionary political parties guiding the working class in their struggle for final emancipation from the yoke of capitalism, they declared must be extinguished. They forced the Communist parties, immediately after their organization in 1919, into an "illegal" existence.

And what is the situation today? We find the capitalists becoming ever more daring in their attempts to crush the working class organizations. They do not hesitate to use the most vicious means to destroy the labor organizations and to reduce the workers to a life of peonage. The use of the thugs and gunmen at Mingo County, which startled the whole world because of its brutality, has been followed by barbarous assaults on organized workers at Herrin, by frameups such as Gary, Ind., and the innumerable attacks on groups of workers during recent strikes. This campaign has reached its climax in the sweeping injunction obtained by Attorney General Daugherty against the railroad workers, which deprived labor of its "constitutional right to organize and the whole working class of the right of free speech, press and assemblage."

It is but logical that the working class shall defend itself against the offensive of capitalism. In their struggle for maintenance of an existence, in their endeavor for better living conditions, the Communists are among the best fighters of the working class. And because of the sincerity and vigor with which the Communists are fighting for the interests of the working class, they have brought upon themselves the wrath of the capitalist class and the state authorities. This is the real reason for their persecution.

## OUR ATTITUDE.

Against the organized offensive of the capitalists, the workers must stand together as a unit. It is the aim of the capitalists, abetted by the government, to break up the labor organizations into as many sections as possible in order finally to destroy them. This is being done by the capitalists, who are organized on a national scale, from New York to California. We must not allow ourselves to be led astray by the slogans of the capitalists, who are playing one section of the workers against the others, the white against the blacks, natives against "foreign" workers, conservatives against radicals, young workers against adult workers. Nor must we allow them to separate the communists from the rest of the workers. The communists are a part of the working class. We must stand by all workers, whether they be members of the Communist Party, the Workers Party, the T. U. E. L., Labor Unions, or any other working class organization.

At this time the young workers must be doubly active. Not only have several members of the Young Workers League been arrested in this vile onslaught against labor organizations, but a general challenge has been issued by the capitalist class to all working class organizations, including those of the youth. Hence, we, the Young Workers League, must join in answering this challenge with action.

## WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

All young workers must stand by the victims of the present struggle in defense of workers rights:

1. By joining the Young Workers Section of the Emergency Labor Defense Council;
2. By organizing protest meetings and demonstrations against the unparalleled brutality of the government and the malicious arrests;
3. By the collection of funds for their defense;
4. By giving nation-wide publicity to these cases;
5. By systematically adopting resolutions in all labor organizations, protesting against these arrests and circulating them among sympathetic organizations;
6. By having speakers appear before the trade unions, or other labor organizations, to speak on the matter of defense.

Workers! Line up with the Emergency Defense Council! Stand by your imprisoned comrades and fellow workers! Let us meet the onslaught of the capitalist class with increased activity!

Organize for the overthrow of capitalist society!

Organize for a Workers Government!

Yours for a United Struggle against the Capitalist Offensive!

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

M. ABERN, National Secretary..